



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The “24/7 Sedgwick County Response Team” – For the Health & Safety of All the Citizens of Sedgwick County

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – Eight months ago, Sedgwick County initiated our “Ready to Respond” program following the terrorist attacks in September, to help citizens be prepared to deal with disaster situations. Over the past eight months, we have presented the “Ready to Respond” information to over 48 community groups, distributed materials to school children throughout Sedgwick County and responded to individual requests about how to prepare for major disasters.

But, citizens are at greater risk of injury as a result of “everyday” disasters – car crashes, bicycle accidents, heart attacks, fires, falls or assaults. Last year, over 416,000 people called our Sedgwick County 9-1-1 needing help – that’s one call every minute, every hour, every day.

Because our top priority is the health and safety of all the citizens of Sedgwick County, Sedgwick County Commissioners have established a second phase to our “Ready to Respond” program: our **“24/7 Sedgwick County Response Team”** to promote safe families in Sedgwick County.

There are vital components to this **“24/7 Sedgwick County Response Team:”**

- Sedgwick County dispatchers who answer calls for help.
- Sedgwick County EMS paramedics who provide emergency medical care to all areas of the County, regardless of where you live.
- Sedgwick County Sheriff’s deputies, who respond quickly to car crashes and criminal activities, assisting other law enforcement agencies when possible.

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- Sedgwick County Firefighters who provide fire suppression and first response on medical emergencies.
- Sedgwick County Emergency Management professionals who help provide warning for severe weather and prepare us for disasters.
- The Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center, that responds day and night to investigate unexpected, violent or suspicious deaths in our community.

All of these professionals, working with other first responders in the cities in Sedgwick County, are ready to help you – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

But, YOU, the citizen, make up the final piece of the team. Knowing the risks of injury, knowing how to prevent them and knowing how to get help from the **“24/7 Sedgwick County Response Team.”**

Members of this team will be coming to your neighborhood groups, your churches, your civic groups, your block parties or wherever you gather to help you learn more about preventing injuries in car crashes, safe use of helmets, early signs of heart attacks and learning the “right” time to call 9-1-1. This is a coordinated public safety initiative.

“This is important,” said ***Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Ben Sciortino***. “At Sedgwick County, our top priority is the safety and health of all the citizens of Sedgwick County. We can sit back and wait for the calls for help, or we can do something about it. Let’s do something together,” he said.

If you are interested in having a member of our **“24/7 Sedgwick County Response Team”** come to your group, call 660-9370.

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